

PSI Networking Call

# **Waste Pharmaceuticals Update: Environmental Impacts, Safety Concerns, and the Progress Towards Solution**

November 4, 2008

Resa A. Dimino  
Special Assistant  
Commissioner's Policy Office



# Proper Disposal of Pharmaceuticals: New York State Actions to Date

- Internal Work Group on Pharmaceuticals
- Roundtable on Managing Unused Pharmaceuticals in NYS
- Inter-Agency Work Group on Managing Pharmaceuticals in Hospitals & Institutions
- Don't Flush Your Drugs education campaign
- Begin Implementation of S7560A

2



# Roundtable on Managing Unused Pharmaceuticals in NYS

May 15, 2008

- Two panel discussions:
  - Managing pharmaceuticals generated by households
  - Managing pharmaceuticals generated by hospitals and institutions



# Proper Disposal of Unused Pharmaceuticals—Next Steps

- Develop Inter-Agency Work Group on Institutional Pharmaceutical Waste
- Launch an Education Program
- Investigate Green Chemistry Options
- Research Presence and Impact in the Environment



# Inter-Agency Work Group on Pharmaceutical Disposal in Institutions

Objective: Develop new guidance on pharmaceuticals disposal in institutions

- Eliminate regulatory barriers to proper disposal
- Work with regulated community to ensure guidance is workable
- Educate regulated community on new protocols



# Education Campaign

## [www.dontflushyourdrugs.net](http://www.dontflushyourdrugs.net)

Launched “Don’t Flush Your Drugs” campaign in August, 2008

- Compiled information on issues
- Issued Guidance to households on proper drug disposal techniques
- Examine/develop other consumer education options

Next Stage: Educate health care professionals



# NYS Legislation

- Original Bill (S7560) Drug Management & Disposal
  - Public information program
  - Notice on proper disposal posted in stores that sell drugs
  - Manufacturer-established drug collection program



# NYS Legislation

- Bill Enacted (S7560-A) Drug Management & Disposal
  - Public information program (DEC & DOH)
  - Notice on proper disposal posted in stores that sell drugs (DEC & SED)
  - Authorization to establish demonstration program (DEC & DOH)





# NYS Legislation

- Issues
  - In Environmental Conservation Law, not Public Health Law
  - No Resources Allocated
  - Does not resolve regulatory or financial issues impeding proper management



# Moving Forward

- Evaluating policy options
- Participating in Product Stewardship Institute's Dialogue on Pharmaceutical Wastes
- Encouraging collection events
- Continue Research on Fate and Impact w/DOH and USGS



# Contact

Resa Dimino

(518) 408-0517

radimino@gw.dec.state.ny.us

[www.dontflushyourdrugs.net](http://www.dontflushyourdrugs.net)

